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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/979,810 11/25/97 ONO

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EXAMINER

TM02/1205

FAY SHARPE BEALL FAGAN
MINNICH & MCKEE
104 EAST HUME AVENUE
ALEXANDRA VA 22301

THOMPSON TR E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2165

DATE MAILED:

12/05/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/979,810

Applicant(s)
ONO et al.

Examiner
Forest Thompson Jr.

Group Art Unit
2165



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/12/00

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 29-36 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 29-36 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to the amendment filed 13 July 2000 (see Paper #17) which deleted claims 17-22, 25 and 26. **Claims 1-14 and 29-36 are pending in this application.**
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action (see Paper No. 2), or will be included here for clarity, as necessary. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not otherwise provided in a prior Office action will be included in this action where appropriate.
3. Claims 1-14 and 29-36 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. Claims 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being by Talati et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,878).

As per claim 30, **Talati** discloses:

- receiving an order for a product in response to an input by a user through a communication network (col. 3 lines 4-33);
- performing order acceptance processing for said product (col. 3 lines 20-33);

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- transmitting to said client trading information including a trading identifier and data on the contents of said order (col. 3 lines 20-33);
- storing said trading information and an e-mail address (col. 8 lines 62-67; col. 9 lines 1-11; fig. 12 [331, 335, 340]);
- creating trading processing information including:
 - a present status of processing for processing initiated for said order (col. 11 lines 38-67; col. 12 lines 1-19);
 - a present status of processing for delivery (col. 6 lines 25-43);
; col. 1, lines 55-67 for
 - a present status of processing for payment processing (col. 6 lines 1-24); and
 - a trading identifier (col. 6 lines 1-32);
- obtaining an e-mail address of a client (col. 8 lines 62-67; col. 9 lines 1-11);
- transmitting said trading processing information to said client (col. 3 lines 20-33); and
- managing the present status of processing until the order processing, the delivery and the payment processing are completed (col. 5 lines 50-67; col. 6 lines 1-60).

As per claim 31, **Talati** discloses repeating until an end of said trading:

- creating said trading processing information (col. 11 lines 38-67; col. 12 lines 1-19; col. 6 lines 25-43; col. 6 lines 1-32);
- obtaining said e-mail address (col. 8 lines 62-67; col. 9 lines 1-11); and

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- transmitting said trading processing information until an end of said trading (col. 3 lines 20-33).

As per claim 32, **Talati** discloses:

- based on a trading identifier, searching for the present status of processing to create trading processing information (col. 10 lines 41-67; col. 11 lines 37); and
- transmitting said trading processing information to said client (col. 3 lines 20-33).

Claim 33 is written as a server and contains the same limitations as claim 30; therefore, the same rejection is applied.

Claim 34 is written as a storage medium and contains the same limitations as claim 32; therefore, the same rejection is applied.

Claim 35 is written as a server and contains the same limitations as claim 30; therefore, the same rejection is applied.

As per claim 36, **Talati** discloses a storage medium comprising storage components having a code sequence for:

- receiving an order (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-19);
- performing order acceptance processing (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-19);
- transmitting to said client trading information (col. 3 lines 20-33);

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- transmitting to said client a present status of processing (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-19);
- transmitting a request for delivery of said product to a delivery managing server (col. 6 lines 40-56); and
- transmitting a request for payment processing for said trading to a payment managing server (col. 6 lines 1-24).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claims 1-14 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Talati et al.** (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,878) hereafter referred to as **Talati**, and further in view of **Wiecha** (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,717).

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7. As per claim 1, **Talati** discloses:

- transmitting an order for a product in response to an input by a user to said server through a communication network (col. 3 lines 4-21);
- receiving trading information including:
 - an e-mail address (col. 8 lines 62-67; col. 9 lines 1-11);
 - a trading identifier associated with said order (col. 8 lines 29-33);
 - data on the contents of said order (col. 3 lines 12-19); and
 - storing said trading information when said e-mail address coincides with an address of said server to which said order was transmitted (fig. 12 [331, 335, 340]);
- receiving from said communication network trading processing information including:
 - an e-mail address (col. 9 lines 45-59);
 - a present status of processing for processing initiated for said order (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-8);
 - a present status of processing for delivery of said product corresponding to said order (col. 11 lines 60-67; col. 12 lines 1-19);
 - a present status of processing for payment processing for said trading (col. 7 lines 25-63); and
 - the trading identifier (col. 3 lines 4-19; col. 7 lines 25-63); and

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- comparing said trading identifier and said e-mail address included in said trading information with said trading identifier included in said trading processing information (col. 3 lines 20-48).

Talati does not specifically disclose adding said trading processing information to said trading information stored in said storage device if they are coincident. Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known that data could be added to a database or modified in a database as necessary by the user. Also, **Wiecha** discloses adding said trading processing information to said trading information stored in said storage device if they are coincident (col. 9 lines 1-11). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine **Talati** and **Wiecha** with old and well known art to disclose adding said trading processing information to said trading information stored in said storage device if they are coincident, because this provided additional functionality to the database.

As per claim 2, **Talati** discloses comparing said data on the contents of said order included in said trading information with:

- said present status of processing (col. 2 lines 51-55; col. 4 lines 66-67; col. 5 lines 1-67; col. 6 lines 1-43);
- said present status of processing for delivery (col. 2 lines 51-55; col. 4 lines 66-67; col. 5 lines 1-67; col. 6 lines 1-43); and

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- said present status of processing for the payment processing (col. 2 lines 51-55; col. 4 lines 66-67; col. 5 lines 1-67; col. 6 lines 1-43); and
- outputting a warning message (col. 3 lines 49-54).

As per claim 3, **Talati** discloses:

- sending to said server a transmission request for trading processing information including the trading identifier (col. 3 lines 3-19).

As per claim 4, **Talati** discloses transmitting:

- a time at which said trading processing information is to be received (col. 10 lines 16-29); and
- a request for said processing information (col. 10 lines 16-29).

As per claim 5, **Talati** does not specifically disclose said present status of processing includes a delivery completed date for the product; a scheduled delivery date for said product; nor a payment completed date or scheduled payment date. Official Notice is taken that a present status of processing for purchase and delivery of products purchased by buyers is normally provided upon request of the buyer and may include any or all of includes a delivery completed date for the product; a scheduled delivery date for said product; and a payment completed date or scheduled payment date. Buyers typically ask the status of their orders and when delivery will be

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completed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine **Talati** and **Wiecha** with old and well known art to disclose said present status of processing includes a delivery completed date for the product; a scheduled delivery date for said product; nor a payment completed date or scheduled payment date, because this provides information that sellers and buyers want pertaining to purchases.

As per claim 6, **Talati** does not specifically disclose displaying trading for which delivery has been completed separately from trading for which delivery has not been completed; nor displaying trading which have been settled separately from trading which have not been settled. However, Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made that information in a database may be displayed as required or desired by a buyer or user. Information in a database may be manipulated as desired by the database user. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine old and well known art with **Talati** and **Wiecha** to disclose displaying trading for which delivery has been completed separately from trading for which delivery has not been completed, and displaying trading which have been settled separately from trading which have not been settled, because this provides information that seller and buyers want pertaining to purchases.

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As per claim 7, **Talati** does not disclose calculating a total amount of money for products which have not been settled; nor displaying the calculated total amount of money. However, Official Notice is taken that *calculating a total amount of money for products which have not been settled and displaying the calculated total amount of money* was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made. These are typical functions associated with merchant billing practices in merchant locations and at Internet merchant sites. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine old and well known art with **Talati** and **Wiecha** to disclose calculating a total amount of money for products which have not been settled, and displaying the calculated total amount of money, because this supports seller functions for making sales.

As per claim 8, **Talati** discloses:

- comparing said total amount of money with a predetermined limit amount (col. 5 lines 12-14); and
- outputting a warning if said total amount of money for the products which have not been settled exceeds said limit amount (col. 5 lines 15-33).

As per claim 9, **Talati** does not specifically disclose inputting information on a product to be returned nor transmitting said information to said server. Official Notice is taken that inputting information and transmitting information were old and well known in the art at the time

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the invention was made. Additionally, Talati discloses transmitting information by a client in connection with a transaction. Also, Official Notice is taken that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the transaction was made to provide a capability for the return of defective or unwanted merchandise as this is a common problem in most merchandising systems and retail systems. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine old and well known art with **Talati** and **Wiecha** to disclose inputting information on a product to be returned and transmitting said information to said server, because this provides desired customer service functions to the system.

As per claim 10, **Talati** does not specifically disclose displaying said trading information to select a portion of information; creating new order information by modifying said selected information; nor transmitting said new order information to said server. However, Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made that computer systems included operating system software that facilitated cut and paste operations with data to copy or transfer data between applications and /or files or documents. Additionally, Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made that users could create new documents by editing old files/documents, making changes, and saving the revised file/document as a new file, such as a new order. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine old and well known art with **Talati** and **Wiecha** to disclose displaying said trading information to select a

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portion of information; creating new order information by modifying said selected information; nor transmitting said new order information to said server, because this facilitates users generating new orders from stored files of previous orders.

As per claim 11, **Talati** discloses:

- said server includes:
 - a shopping server (col. 4 lines 63-65);
 - a payment managing server (col. 4 lines 63-65); and
 - a delivery managing server (col. 4 lines 63-65);
- receiving said present status of processing for the processing for said order from said shopping server (col. 6 lines 1-24);
- receiving said present status of processing for said payment processing for trading from said payment managing server (col. 6 lines 1-43);
- receiving said present status of processing for the processing for said delivery from said delivery managing server (col. 6 lines 1-60);

As per claim 12, **Talati** discloses sending to said shopping server a transmission request for order processing information including a trading identifier (col. 6 lines 1-60).

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As per claim 13, **Talati** discloses sending to said payment managing server a transmission request for payment managing processing information including the trading identifier (col. 6 lines 1-60).

As per claim 14, **Talati** discloses sending to said delivery managing server a transmission request for delivery managing processing information including the trading identifier (col. 6 lines 1-60).

As per claim 29, **Talati** discloses repeating:

- said step of receiving trading processing information (col. 3 lines 20-48); and
- said step of comparing (col. 3 lines 20-48).

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant presented no arguments with the current amendment addressed by this Action. Applicant's amendment amended claim 1 and added new claims 29-36, necessitating new grounds for rejection. Therefore, rejection of applicant's application is maintained.

Conclusion

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9.. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Forest Thompson whose telephone number is (703) 306-5449. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin, can be reached at (703) 308-1065.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2700 is (703) 308-9051 or 9052. Draft or Informal faxes for this Art Unit can be submitted to (703) 308-5357.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

November 30, 2000 /FOT



MELANIE A. KEMPER
PRIMARY EXAMINER